

A New Male Legionary Ant from the Mojave Desert, California

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In a previous article entitled, "The Legionary Ants of the United States Belonging to *Eciton*, subgenus *Neivamyrmex* Borgmeier" (1942, Amer. Mid. Nat. 27: 537-590), the author taxonomically reviewed all the species then known to occur in the United States. In the same article it was also indicated that additional species new to science would undoubtedly be found in the general southwestern region where the ants seem to be most abundant.

This article describes the male of a new legionary ant from the Mojave Desert, Calif. Although the male bears a striking superficial resemblance to that of *E. (N.) minus* (Cress.), it is specifically distinct, as the description and figure will confirm. Unfortunately, no facts are available concerning the exact ecological habitat of this ant.

***Eciton (Neivamyrmex) mojave*, new species**

(Fig. 1, head)

Male.—Length 8.25 mm.

Head approximately one and one-half times as broad as long. Eye rather small, moderately convex, protuberant. Ocelli small, only slightly extending above the general surface of the head; summit of protuberance concave; lateral ocellus at least twice its greatest diameter from inner margin of eye. Region of head between eye and lateral ocellus appearing round when head is viewed anteriorly. Frontal carinae with a pronounced groove between them extending from posterior border of clypeus to anterior ocellus; each carina not forming a distinct ridge above an antennal socket. Antennal scape robust, approximately as long as combined length of first 3 funicular segments; all funicular segments except the first two distinctly longer than broad. Anterior border of clypeus approximately straight. Mandible moderately long, curved, tapering from base to apex and ending in an incurved point that is neither long nor unusually acute. Eye not occupying all of the side of the head, there being a small area between the border of the eye and the mandible and a much larger area posterodorsad of the eye. Region of head behind ocelli flat or weakly concave. Occipital flange lacking. Head, from above, much more produced behind the eyes than in *minus*. Thorax approximately one and one-half times as long as high, somewhat projecting above head; mesonotum slender, convex, bearing anteromedian and parapsidal lines. Epinotum, in profile, subtruncate or weakly concave. Legs unusually small. Anterior half of petiole with sharply margined sides; ventral surface with a prominent protuberance. Gaster slender, compressed,

with distinct constrictions between segments. Seventh gastric sternum (hypopygium) with 2 acute lateral teeth and a less acute median tooth.

Head shining; thorax and gaster appearing more subopaque because of the dense, short, closely appressed hairs; thorax more subopaque than

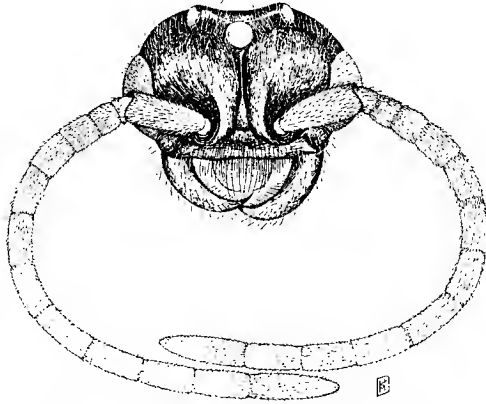


FIG. 1. Head of male of *Eciton* (*Neivamyrmex*) *mojave*, new species.
Illustration by Mrs. Sara H. DeBord.

gaster. Punctuation somewhat concealed by the hairs, most distinct on the thorax, especially the mesonotum and pleura.

Hairs yellowish, short, dense; excluding head, much appressed on all parts of body except venter; on head longer and more erect, especially on clypeus and mandibles.

Head, thorax, and petiole dark brown, almost black; gaster light brown forming a distinct contrast with remainder of body. Wings very pale, with extremely light veins and distinct brown stigma.

Type locality.—Mojave Desert, Calif.

Holotype.—United States National Museum No. 56598.

The holotype and one paratype male were collected at the type locality on October 15, 1925, by J. M. Swaine. The paratype male differs from that of the holotype in its much darker head, thorax, and petiole (approximately black) and the infuscated base of the first gastric segment.

In the article previously mentioned this species would key out to *minus* (Cress.). Although the male superficially resembles that of *minus* in its general size, slender appearance, color of wings, and a few other characters, it is entirely distinct. It differs from *minus* in the shape of the head, smaller eyes and ocelli, more slender thorax, and structure of the antenna.